



**Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest**
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News Release

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Expect to see smoke as prescribed burns continue

JOHN DAY, OR – The Malheur Rappel Crew will conduct a small prescribed fire training exercise as part of their five-day fire and medical training. The rappel crew has been conducting their training on the Aldrich Mountain Range for the past fifteen years.

Ignition will take place in the Murderer's Creek project planning area on Thursday, May 14, and conclude the following day. The training exercise will be conducted in an area previously burned as part of the Murderer's Creek Fuels Reduction Project. The total size is expected to be less than three acres.

While weather dependent, crews will also implement landscape prescribed burning in the Knox treatment unit, located in the Southeast corner of the Prairie City Ranger District, as early as this weekend. Up to 800 acres are planned for this burn.

Smoke may be visible in these areas both days, as crews continue to complete their training, which includes constructing control lines and "mopping up" the prescribed fire. Mopping up is the process of locating and extinguishing all fire brands in the burn area. Crews will continue to monitor the fires until they are declared out.

Burning may have some short-term impacts on air quality levels, but any burning activity will be accomplished during weather conditions that should minimize impacts of smoke on local communities.

Each prescribed burn represents many hours of planning and preparation. Specific weather and vegetative conditions must be in place in order to conduct these burns. Prescribed burns are designed to both reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, as well as to restore overall health of the National Forest System lands.

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For further information, contact forest staff at 541-575-3000 or the Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 541-575-1321.

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